

From: Gentry, Nathan [Gentry.Nathan@epa.gov]
on behalf of Robbins, Chris [Robbins.Chris@epa.gov]
Sent: 8/3/2017 2:10:14 PM
To: Weekly Report Group [Weekly_Report_Group@epa.gov]
CC: Hubbard, Carolyn [Hubbard.Carolyn@epa.gov]; Blackburn, Elizabeth [Blackburn.Elizabeth@epa.gov]; Gwinn, Maureen [gwinn.maureen@epa.gov]; Rodan, Bruce [rodan.bruce@epa.gov]; Radzikowski, Mary Ellen [Radzikowski.Maryellen@epa.gov]; Robbins, Chris [Robbins.Chris@epa.gov]; Burden, Susan [Burden.Susan@epa.gov]; Breen, Barry [Breen.Barry@epa.gov]; Cleland-Hamnett, Wendy [Cleland-Hamnett.Wendy@epa.gov]; Heard, Anne [Heard.Anne@epa.gov]; Coleman, Sam [Coleman.Sam@epa.gov]; Dunham, Sarah [Dunham.Sarah@epa.gov]; Shapiro, Mike [Shapiro.Mike@epa.gov]; Beck, Nancy [Beck.Nancy@epa.gov]; Yamada, Richard (Yujiro) [yamada.richard@epa.gov]; Kaplan, Robert [kaplan.robert@epa.gov]; McCabe, Catherine [McCabe.Catherine@epa.gov]
Subject: ORD Weekly Update for August 3
Attachments: ORD weekly Update Aug 3.docx

Administrator,

We have completed the first round of reviews of Board of Scientific Counselor nominations and continue to make progress with the BOSC nomination process.

Hot Issues

TSCA Support: ORD continues to work with OPPT to improve estimates of chemical exposure used for chemical prioritization and evaluation. ORD and OPPT staff are planning two workshops. The first will focus on estimating exposure from chemicals in consumer products and will involve exchanging information on ORD's Human Exposure Model and OPPT's Chemical Exposure Model. The intent is to identify how these tools can be used to inform the implementation of TSCA, outline next steps for their evolving development, and look for opportunities for integration. The second workshop will focus on occupational exposure to chemicals. Representatives from ORD, OPPT, NIOSH and OSHA will be brought together to discuss what information is available and how to use that information to support TSCA.

Upcoming public events

Rural community assistance for small drinking water systems in Puerto Rico

July 31-August 4, ORD, EPA Region 2, and the Inter-American University of Puerto Rico (IAUPR), will evaluate drinking water treatment and monitoring technologies in small communities near Patillas, PR, for compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act and contributions to improving public health. The collaborators will train community volunteers to be citizen scientists by demonstrating how to download monitoring results and analyze bacteria samples. The project team will also evaluate two different configurations of biological sand filters for waterborne pathogen removal.

EPA-ECOS PFAS Call

On August 7, ORD will conduct a teleconference with the Environmental Council of the States, interested states and EPA scientists to discuss PFAS analytical methods, toxicity and treatment issues. Bob Kavlock will present an overview of EPA's cross-Agency coordination activities, and there will be an update on EPA's analytical methods development and validation effort. These regular calls were requested by the states in our discussions on state research needs to share information on PFAS technical issues.

Meeting on Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR), Oklahoma City, August 7

ORD is meeting with staff members from the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality and the City of Ada to discuss a limited scale ASR project proposed by the City of Ada. These limited scale demonstrations are allowed under the new State of Oklahoma regulations on ASR and may provide an opportunity for research on the effects of ASR on water quality and quantity in the Arbuckle Simpson Aquifer recharge area.

Minnesota Department of Health Meeting with ORD on ToxCast and Rapid Exposure and Dose

At this year's Society of Toxicology meeting, Minnesota Department of Health (DOH) expressed interest in ToxCast and Rapid Exposure and Dose data to evaluate chemicals. As a result, there will be a meeting between ORD and Minnesota DOH on August 14th. At this meeting, Minnesota DOH will provide an overview of their interest and ORD will provide an overview of these new approaches for evaluating chemicals for potential health effects. The Minnesota DOH toxicology staff will participate along with staff from ORD.

Last week Highlights

New Mobile App Helps Protect Citizens from Health Risks of Wildfire Smoke

EPA has launched a citizen science public health research project that allows people to use a new ORD-developed mobile application to learn about wildland fires and smoke health risks in their areas. The *SmokeSense* app can be used to report health symptoms and actions people may take to lower their exposure. Researchers will evaluate results to understand how smoke exposure affects health and productivity, and how health risk communication strategies improve public health outcomes. EPA will incorporate local feedback for the next smoke season.

ORD Algal Bloom Detection Work Featured

On July 30th, the Associated Press published a story, [*Researchers creating warning system for toxic algae in lakes*](#), which describes research currently being conducted in the area of algal bloom detection. ORD's Blake Schaeffer was interviewed for this story and he spoke about EPA's efforts to develop methods for early detection of algal blooms. The Associated Press story was published by multiple other news outlets such as the New York Times [1], ABC News [2], and Centre Daily Times [3]. In addition, Schaeffer was interviewed for the Tim Denis Show on [*News Talk Radio 610, CKTB*](#), in St. Catharines, Ontario, Canada. In the interview, Schaeffer and Denis discuss EPA's work on algal bloom detection and why it is important.

PFAS Webinar for EPA Regions

On July 31st, ORD hosted a webinar on PFAS Methods for regional partners. The presentation, titled *Per- and Poly-fluorinated compounds Analysis: Case Study Cape Fear Drainage Basin*, summarized the Cape Fear PFAS sampling project. The summary included a timeline of events and overviews of field and laboratory methods, quality assurance and quality control measures, and equipment used for the study. The presentation also summarized findings and current efforts.

Scientific Integrity

On August 2, the Office of the Science Advisor responded to the Sierra Club's March 14, 2017 letter sent to the EPA Office of the Inspector General regarding a Violation of Scientific Integrity Policy by Administrator Pruitt. A Scientific Integrity Review Panel found that the public statements cited by Sierra Club did not violate the Scientific Integrity Policy. In making this finding, the Scientific Integrity Review Panel stated that an agency employee is free to express one's opinion on the science. The Panel noted that this protection is afforded to any employee including the Administrator.

Regional Sustainability & Environmental Research Program

This week ORD announced the selection of the six top-rated proposals submitted for the FY17 Regional Sustainability & Environmental Research Program (RESES) solicitation. Through RESES, regionally-identified environmental issues are paired with ORD expertise to address critical state and community needs. RESES projects can be a unique opportunity to apply some of our newest research tools to address regional priorities and inform current ORD research.